

Claims:

1. A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients
and being formed from substantially air- and water-
impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an
outer member defining a storage chamber in which is
stored the one or more beverage ingredients and an
inner member having a discharge spout forming an outlet
for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more
beverage ingredients, characterised in that the inner
member forms a load-bearing member.
2. A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inner
member and outer member are separate components which
are conjoined during assembly of the cartridge.
3. A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a
filter conjoined to the inner member.
4. A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inner
member forms a load-bearing member of sufficient
rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a
compressive load of greater than 130N.
5. A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the load-
bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the
cartridge can withstand a compressive force of greater
than 200N.
6. A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the load-
bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the

load-bearing member can withstand a compressive force of greater than 130N.

- 5 7. A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inner member is formed from polypropylene.
8. A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.
- 10 9. A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inner member and discharge spout are formed as one piece.
- 15 10. A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a housing having a closed first end and an open second end, the housing defining a storage chamber in which is stored the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein
20 the open second end of the housing is sealed by a lid, characterised by the cartridge further comprising a load-bearing member spanning between the closed first end of the housing and the lid.
- 25 11. A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the load-bearing member comprises a discharge spout forming an outlet for outflow of beverage formed from the one or more beverage ingredients.

12. A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the load-bearing member is located at or near a center of the cartridge.
- 5 13. A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive load of greater than 130N.
- 10 14. A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the cartridge can withstand a compressive force of greater than 200N.
- 15 15. A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the load-bearing member is of sufficient rigidity such that the load-bearing member can withstand a compressive force of greater than 130N.